

AC 441913

12508

SIXTEENTH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1914.



GUERNSEY:  
RICHARD'S PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO., LTD.,  
BORDAGE STREET.

1915.



# APPENDICE.

---

## RAPPORT DE L'OFFICIER DE LA SANTÉ PUBLIQUE, 1914.

# RAPPORT DE L'OFFICIER DE LA SANTÉ PUBLIQUE.

---

Lettre de M. le Président du Comité.

States Office, Guernsey, June 22nd, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to present the Sixteenth Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1914, with the request that it may be printed as an Appendix to the "Billet d'État," and that a certain number of copies (say 100) be struck off for distribution in the usual way.

I have, &c., &c.,

G. H. LE MOTTÉE,

Acting-President of the Board of Health.

Sir William Carey, Knight, Bailiff,  
and President of the States of Guernsey.

## GUERNSEY—1914.

---

Area in statute acres—15,654.

Area in square miles—24·5.

POPULATION.—Males —20,465  
Females—21,535  
————— 42,000

HOUSES.—Inhabited—9,710.

Uninhabited—427.

Constructing—27.

Density of Population per acre—2·6.

„ „ per square mile—1,714.

Average number of inhabitants per house—4·3.

Birth rate per 1,000 = 20·9.

Average previous 10 years—24·8.

Death rate per 1,000=11·8.

Average previous 10 years—14·5.

Rainfall, 1914—42·67 inches.

Average Rainfall—36·64 inches.

Sunshine—1,871 hours.

Sunshine average—1,902 hours.

### EXPORTS OF STONE AND PRODUCE :

Stone—347,876 tons.

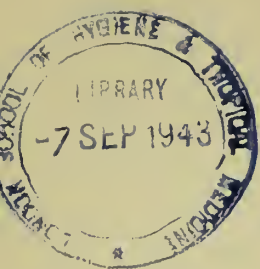
Flowers—2,325 tons.

Tomatoes—15,777 tons.

Grapes—2,056 tons.

Other fruit—381 tons.

Vegetables—1,653 tons.



# SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

---

## POPULATION.

For statistical purposes I have estimated the population of the Island at 42,000, an increase of 146 only since the last census.

I believe this to be an under estimate, but it is better to err in this direction than to make the opposite mistake, as was made before the 1911 census was taken.

The outbreak of war has greatly disturbed any calculations and made them problematical.

The movements caused by it were chiefly those of men in the prime of life leaving our shores, and being replaced for varying periods by other men of similar condition: amongst them the death rate is naturally low.

The withdrawal of the former garrison, the departure of men enlisting, and reservists of both English and French nationality for the Front, was about equalised by the large number of men from Staffordshire sent over here for training.

It appears that recently not only has emigration practically ceased, but that for some time past numbers of persons who had emigrated have returned to Guernsey.

At the end of the year it was found that there were 41 adult enemy aliens resident in Guernsey—30 Germans and 11 Austrians. Towards the end of the year 28 Belgian refugees arrived here.

## BIRTHS.

The births for the year numbered 880—450 male and 430 female—giving a birth rate of 20·9 per 1,000.

As usual, this is lower than the preceding year and is the lowest recorded.

In 1904 there were 1,144 births, and the birth rate was 28.

The average of the last ten years was 24·8.

There were 30 illegitimate births, or 3·4 per cent. of the total.

The number of still-born children was 53—males, 33; females, 20.

XII.—1915.

The birth rate in England and Wales was 23·6 ; in London, 24·6 ; the great towns, 24·9 ; the smaller towns, 23·6 ; and the country less the 242 towns, 21·9.

Our birth rate, therefore, has fallen below that of any of these English districts.

The birth rate of Jersey for 1914 was 19·2.

Table I.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES.	
		Number.	Rate per 1,000.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 registered.	Number.	Rate per 1,000.
Column ...	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1904.....	40,795	1,144	28·0	181	158·2	690	16·9
1905.....	40,884	1,129	27·6	155	135·0	644	15·7
1906.....	40,990	1,112	27·1	154	138·4	588	14·3
1907.....	41,174	1,068	25·9	123	115·1	606	14·8
1908.....	41,350	1,005	24·3	131	131·0	591	14·3
1909.....	41,524	1,013	24·3	111	109·6	521	12·5
1910.....	41,670	989	23·7	107	107·0	549	13·1
1911.....	41,854	946	22·6	197	208·0	734	17·4
1912.....	41,854	983	23·5	101	102·7	552	13·1
1913.....	41,854	887	21·2	101	113·8	550	13·1
Averages for ten years, 1904-1913.	41,394	1,027	24·8	136	131·8	602	14·5
1913.....	42,000	880	20·9	81	92	498	11·8

## DEATHS.

The number of deaths was 498, a rate of 11·8 per 1,000.

This compares very favourably with 1904, when the number was 690 with a rate of 16·9, and also with the average of the preceding years, 602 and 14·5.

It is also the first time since statistics have been kept that the number of deaths has been below 500.

A falling birth rate usually is accompanied by a falling death rate, but fortunately with us the fall is more pronounced with the latter than with the former.

A comparison of the ages at death between 1914 and preceding periods of years since 1900 give some satisfactory figures, as the undermentioned table will show. Between birth and the age of 25 the percentage of deaths had decreased by more than a third, between 25 and 65 it was practically stationary until 1914, when it increased somewhat, and over 65 it has increased by more than a third.

Death must come at some time or other, but it is evident that our population is lengthening, as a whole, its days.

It is not so much a question of a few people who were the survival of the fittest attaining a great age, as an all-round increase in longevity. The saving in young lives, or in other words, a larger population at the working ages in subsequent years is a matter for congratulation.

Percentage of deaths at various age periods :—

Years.	1900-1914.							
	Under 1 year.	1-5	5-15	15-25	Under 25 years.	25-65	Over 65 years.	
1900—1904 .....	24	... 9	... 4	... 5	... 42	... 27	... 30	
1905—1909 .....	22·3	... 8	... 3	... 4·6	... 38	... 28	... 33	
1910—1914 .....	20·2	... 7·2	... 3·3	... 3·8	... 34·5	... 27·8	... 37·2	
1914 .....	16·2	... 3·6	... 2·4	... 4·6	... 26·8	... 32	... 41·2	

The death rates of the various parishes will be found in a separate table.

The crude death rates of England and Wales for 1914 are as follows :—

England and Wales, 13·9; London, 14·4; the great towns, 14·6; the smaller towns, 12·8; the country less the 242 towns, 13·3.

Our death, like our birth rate, is therefore below any of the English districts.

The following is the number of deaths occurring in the public institutions of the Island :—

King Edward Sanatorium	...	...	...	5
Victoria Cottage Hospital	...	...	...	8
Town Hospital	...	...	...	34
Town Asylum	...	...	...	6
Country Hospital	...	...	...	15
Country Asylum	...	...	...	2

The average incidence of the commoner causes of death compared with the years 1906—1913 is shown below :—

XII.—1915.

				1906-1913.	1914.
Measles	...	...	...	8.3	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	8.1	0
Epidemic Enteritis	...	...	...	22.1	5
Diphtheria	...	...	...	6.3	3
Senile Decay	...	...	...	69.8	60
Cancer...	...	...	...	47.1	46
Broncho Pneumonia	...	...	...	8.8	6
Pneumonia	...	...	...	19.6	25
Heart Disease...	...	...	...	66.1	62
Apoplexy	...	..	...	28.8	28
Tuberculosis (other than Phthisis)	...	...	...	14.1	13
Phthisis	...	...	...	37	34

The death rate of Jersey for the year was 15.5.

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 81 deaths of children under the age of one year, a rate of 92 per 1,000 births.

This is much the lowest death rate on record, and compares very favourably with the average of the last ten years, viz. : 131.8.

The rates for the separate parishes compare with past figures as follows :—

Parish.				1914.	1913.	1899-1912.
St. Peter-Port	...	...	...	98.8	121	138
St. Sampson	...	...	...	83.3	163	152
Vale	...	...	...	56.4	33	144
Castel	...	...	...	90	150	117
St. Saviour	...	...	...	121.2	156	120
St. Pierre-du-Bois	...	...	...	166.6	200	154
Torteval	...	...	...	—	—	82
Forest	...	...	...	52.6	28	135
St. Martin...	...	...	...	104.4	111	109
St. Andrew	...	...	...	111	45	104

The infantile death rates of England and Wales were as follows :—

England and Wales, 105; ninety-seven towns, including London, 113; one hundred and forty-five smaller towns, 104; the whole country, less the towns, 93; London, 103; Jersey, 103.2.

The Parish of St. Peter-in-the-Wood has the highest death rate always.

It is, I take it, the poorest parish in the Island, the worst housed and least advanced in modern ways and thought, and badly situated as regards securing medical aid in time of sickness.

During 1914 the climatic conditions were favourable, and only six deaths were recorded from Measles and Epidemic Enteritis against the average number for many years of 30·4.

No deaths from Whooping Cough occurred.

During the first month of life 42 deaths or 51·8 per cent. of the total deaths took place. The occurrence of such a large number points to the necessity of the removal of the conditions under which so many mothers gave birth to children with such feeble vital powers.

Many of these conditions are well known, but unfortunately the remedies for them seem almost beyond our powers to deal with at present.

A beginning has, however, been made to cope with these difficulties, and a Society formed by the amalgamation of two smaller ones and designated "The Infant Health Society," has been working in the Town Parish during the year.

I believe that it has done really valuable and practical work, and I hope that its sphere of action will become wider, and that a similar organisation will soon be found in every parish in Guernsey.

It is useless at present to think of any other scheme. But so much voluntary service is given here, that I feel sure such a suggestion will be heartily welcomed by our women folk who are so anxious to be of service to their country in its time of trial.

The preservation of infant life is now an especially urgent matter. The enormous numbers of valiant men who have given up their lives for their country's sake, and the number of maimed and wounded men returning broken from the Front can ill be spared. We have realised the difficulty of finding the necessary men for our armies, for our commerce, and for our manufactures, and this difficulty is daily increasing.

The truth of Ruskin's words: "That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings" is forced home to us now as it never has been before.

We are accustomed to be told that the death rate amongst illegitimate children is about three times that of the legitimate.

Everyone agrees that this is a sad state of things, but no measures are taken to reduce it.

By measures I mean practical measures, as no amount of Congresses or essays on this subject by well-meaning persons will be of any avail unless useful suggestions are translated into effective action.

Most illegitimate children are born of young and healthy parents, and the vulgar belief has generally credited them with physical and mental powers above the average.

In the sixteenth century the learned professors of the University of Padua concurred in this opinion after long and heated debates, and probably in those days they had more opportunities of judging than we now have.

No doubt some people will urge that to help the mother of an illegitimate child is to encourage vice, but the position of the unmarried mother is such a sad and difficult one that this will not be the case.

Instead of adopting the English Notification of Births Act which would be difficult of application here, I would advocate the shortening of the period allowed for registration of births from thirty to five days, the registration and inspection of houses where children are taken in to nurse, and the kindly and watchful care of Infant Health Associations.

The Children's Act, when it becomes law, will greatly help in this matter.

The public are now greatly concerned with the subject of "war babies," and different opinions are held as to their probable numbers.

The Separation Allowances in many cases places the wife of the soldier in as favourable a position, if not a more favourable position, than she was before the war started.

The unmarried mother has no such financial support to rely upon.

Whilst not in agreement with the wild statements that have been made as to the large increase in the number of illegitimate children that may be expected as a result of the disturbed psychology of the nation in these times of trouble and stress, the large numbers of men living under unusual conditions, and the excitement of the younger female population, I believe that a certain increase will take place in the numbers.

Let us, therefore, in the name of humanity as well as of expediency, ensure that no means shall be wanting to allow these helpless and hapless

children to have the opportunity of becoming good and useful citizens in the future.

	Under 1 week.	Between weeks				Under 1 month.	Months.				Tl. under 1 year.
		1 & 2	2 & 3	3 & 4			1-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	
Premature Birth ...	20	...	2	...	...	22	...	...	...	...	22
Debility at Birth ...	4	2	2	...	...	8	1	...	...	...	9
Marasmus .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	5	3	...	...	9
Asthenia .....	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	3
Congenital Malfor- mation .....	2	...	...	1	...	3	1	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	3
Broncho Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	3
Bronchitis .....	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Tuberculosis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Ophthalmia Neona- torum .....	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Measles .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Epidemic Enteritis .	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	3
Heart Disease .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Septicæmia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Convulsions .....	2	1	2	...	...	5	4	5	1	1	16
	28	6	7	1	42	16	16	1	6	81	

#### MARRIAGES.

The number of marriages was 281, equal to a rate of 13·3 per 1,000.

This is much the same as the five years' average—288.

Of these 57 took place at the Greffe Office, 36 in Nonconformist Churches, 31 in Roman Catholic, and 157 in Church of England Churches.

There was no marriage in the Forest Church during the year.

The marriage rate in England and Wales in 1912 was 15·2

Table II.

RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1914.

## BIRTHS.

PARISH LETTER:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	Tl.
Males .....	165	70	63	33	20	29	3	9	35	23	450
Females .....	189	62	61	33	13	13	4	10	32	13	430
Totals .....	354	132	124	66	33	42	7	19	67	36	880

## STILL BIRTHS.

Males.....	13	4	3	1	2	4	1	0	3	2	33
Females .....	9	1	4	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	20
	22	5	7	4	2	5	1	1	3	3	53

## ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

	12	4	3	5	0	1	0	0	2	3	30
--	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

## DEATHS.

*General Diseases.*

Ricketts.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Rheumatoid Arthritis .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Rheumatism.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diabetes.....	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4
Luchæmia .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Psteo Arthritis.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Neurasthenia.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Pernicious Anæmia.....	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	4

*Epidemic.*

Influenza .....	6	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	10
Measles .....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Enteritis .....	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5
Enteric Fever .....	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Diphtheria .....	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3

*Infancy.*

Premature Birth .....	11	3	3	-	2	1	-	-	2	-	22
Convulsions .....	8	3	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	17
Congenital Malformation .	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Debility at Birth .....	2	1	1	-	1	2	-	-	2	1	10
Marasmus .....	5	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	10
Asthenia .....	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3

Carried forward ..... 46 ... 11 ... 8 ... 5 ... 4 ... 7 ... 0 ... 4 ... 11 ... 6 ... 102

XII.—1915.

PARISH LETTER:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	Tl.
Brought forward .....	46	11	8	5	4	7	0	4	11	6	102

*Alimentary.*

Appendicitis .....	2	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	3
Intestinal Obstruction.....	2	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	3
Hernia .....	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	2
Intussusception .....	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Peritonitis .....	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Gastritis .....	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Gastric Ulcer .....	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	1	..	1	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	4
Acute Hepatitis .....	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1

*Circulatory.*

Heart Disease .....	26	...	7	...	8	...	7	...	2	...	3	...	-	...	2	...	6	...	1	...	62
Apoplexy .....	14	...	1	...	3	...	2	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	28
Embolism .....	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Gangrene .....	2	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	2
Pericarditis ..	1	..	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Thrombosis .....	3	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	4
Angina Pectoris .....	3	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	3
Atheroma .....	2	...	-	...	2	...	3	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	9

*Urinary.*

Nephritis .....	8	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	-	...	2	...	-	...	-	...	16
Cystitis .....	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1

*Respiratory.*

Pneumonia .....	14	...	1	...	3	...	2	...	1	...	2	...	-	...	-	...	2	...	-	...	25
Pleuro-Pneumonia ..	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Broncho-Pneumonia .....	3	...	2	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	6
Bronchitis .....	12	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	18
Empyema .....	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Asthma .....	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1

*Infective.*

Phthisis.....	13	...	7	...	1	...	3	...	-	...	4	...	-	...	1	...	3	...	2	...	34
Tubercular Kidney ...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
„ Meningitis .....	1	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	3
„ Peritonitis .....	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Tabes Mesenterica .....	1	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	2

---

Carried forward .....161 .. 33 ...28 ...33 ...12 ...21 ... 2 ...10 ..28 ...11 ... 339

PARISH LETTER:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	Tl.
Brought forward .....	161	33	28	33	12	21	2	10	28	11	339
General Tuberculosis .....	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	5
Tuberculosis of Joints .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
<i>Intemperance.</i>											
Alcoholism ..	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
<i>Parturition.</i>											
Heart Failure .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Hæmorrhage.....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Septicæmia .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
<i>Tumour.</i>											
Malignant.....	22	5	3	6	—	4	1	1	2	2	46
<i>Septic.</i>											
Septicæmia .....	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
<i>Violence.</i>											
Fall .....	2	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	6
Drowning .....	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Poisoning .....	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Suicide .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Burns .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Run Over .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
<i>Nervous.</i>											
Dementia .....	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
General Paralysis of Insane	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
Epilepsy .....	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Mania .....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Meningitis.....	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Paralysis .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Progressive Atrophy .....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Myelitis.....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
<i>Old Age.</i>											
Senile Decay.....	31	6	9	2	2	3	1	1	3	2	60
Totals.....	239	50	47	46	17	32	4	12	35	16	498

XII.—1915.

Table

A					B				C				D				E			
Names of Parishes.	ST. PETER-PORT.				ST. SAMPSON'S.				THE VALE.				CASTEL.				ST. SAVIOUR'S.			
YEAR.	Population estimated according to Census.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated according to Census.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated according to Census.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated according to Census.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated according to Census.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
Column ...	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
1903.....	18162				5573				5082				2802				1062			
1904.....	—	461	321	77	—	165	87	37	—	164	71	26	—	104	46	9	—	29	30	4
1905.....	—	461	302	59	—	180	77	17	—	173	72	21	—	90	62	16	—	29	12	1
1906.....	—	427	268	54	—	174	64	29	—	145	69	21	—	93	64	12	—	32	18	7
1907.....	—	392	275	44	—	160	75	26	—	146	68	14	—	77	74	12	—	30	15	1
1908.....	—	366	257	44	—	163	93	34	—	144	57	16	—	88	70	10	—	38	14	3
1909.....	—	383	240	36	—	175	66	22	—	137	60	16	—	78	55	9	—	27	17	7
1910.....	—	368	242	41	—	165	64	14	—	139	68	20	—	71	60	9	—	29	14	3
1911 Census	18052	352	351	88	5952	140	101	42	5486	144	65	16	3082	82	78	8	1075	28	12	1
1912 .....	—	361	256	41	—	177	80	13	—	123	62	16	—	82	40	9	—	25	17	3
1913.....	—	321	269	39	—	141	72	23	—	120	55	4	—	73	44	11	—	32	18	5
Average of 10 years to 1913.	18107	389	278	52	5763	164	77	26	5284	143	64	17	2942	88	59	10	1068	29	16	3
1914.....	18125	354	239	35	5952	132	50	11	5486	124	47	7	3157	66	46	5	1075	33	17	4
Birth rate.. .....	19.5				22.1				22.6				20.8				30			
Death rate .....	13.1				8.4				8.5				14.5				15.8			
Infantile death rate	101				83				56				75				121			

## III.

F

G

H

I

K

Names of Parishes.	ST. PETER-IN-THE-WOOD.				TORTEVAL.				FOREST.				ST. MARTIN'S.				ST. ANDREW'S.			
YEAR.	Population estimated according to Census.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated according to Census.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated according to Census.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated according to Census.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated according to Census.	Births registered.	Deaths registered.	Deaths under 1 year.
Column ...	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A.	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
1903.....	1577				446				842				3201				1552			
1904.....	—	52	35	8	—	10	6	0	—	27	20	5	—	91	51	10	—	41	23	5
1905.....	—	56	29	4	—	22	10	0	—	19	15	0	—	86	43	10	—	40	22	7
1906.....	—	60	25	9	—	6	9	2	—	26	15	6	—	107	45	13	—	42	11	1
1907.....	—	60	16	8	—	20	6	1	—	32	17	5	—	97	39	8	—	54	21	4
1908.....	—	44	29	8	—	14	4	2	—	27	11	4	—	78	38	8	—	43	18	2
1909.....	—	41	13	6	—	14	9	1	—	38	17	3	—	79	34	6	—	41	10	5
1910.....	—	49	30	8	—	14	4	1	—	32	17	2	—	81	40	5	—	41	15	4
1911 Census	1612	49	24	11	499	13	6	4	910	28	15	4	3436	73	64	20	1750	37	18	3
1912.....	—	53	16	6	—	12	5	0	—	28	12	1	—	65	44	7	—	57	20	5
1913.....	—	45	25	9	—	13	10	0	—	35	10	1	—	63	33	7	—	44	14	2
Average of 10 years to 1913.	1595	50	24	7	473	13	6	1	876	29	14	3	3329	82	43	9	1649	44	17	3
1914.....	1612	42	32	7	499	7	4	0	910	19	12	1	3436	67	35	7	1750	36	16	4
Birth rate.....	26				14				21·7				19·5				20			
Death rate .....	19·8				8				13·7				10				9·1			
Infantile death rate	166				0				52				104				110			

**Table IV.**  
CAUSE OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH OF THE DEATHS REGISTERED  
DURING THE YEAR 1914.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	WHOLE ISLAND.							Over 65.	Total.
	Under 1.	1-2	2-5.	5-15.	15-25.	25-65.			
<i>General Diseases.</i>									
Ricketts .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rheumatoid Arthritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Rheumatism .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diabetes .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4
Luchæmia .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Osteoarthritis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Neurasthenia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pernicious Anæmia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
<i>Epidemic.</i>									
Influenza .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	10
Measles .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Enteritis .....	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Enteric Fever .....	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Diphtheria .....	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	3
<i>Infancy.</i>									
Premature Birth .....	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
Convulsions .....	16	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
Congenital Malformation.	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Debility at Birth .....	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Marasmus .....	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Asthenia .....	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
<i>Alimentary.</i>									
Appendicitis .....	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3
Intestinal Obstruction ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Hernia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Intussusception .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Peritonitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Gastritis .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Carried forward .....	67	7	3	2	2	17	15	—	113

XII.—1915.

XII.—1915.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	WHOLE ISLAND.												Total.
	Under 1.	1-2	2-5.	5-15.	15-25.	25-65.	Over 65.						
Brought forward	... 67	... 7	... 3	... 2	... 2	... 17	... 15	... 113					
Gastric Ulcer .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	... 1	... 1				
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	3	... 1	... 4				
Acute Hepatitis .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	... —	... 1				

*Circulatory.*

Heart Disease	2	—	—	—	—	4	19	37	62
Apoplexy	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	17	28
Embolism	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Gangrene	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Pericarditis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Thrombosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
Angina Pectoris	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Atheroma	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	9

*Urinary.*

Nephritis	—	—	—	—	2	—	9	5	16
Cystitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

*Respiratory.*

Pneumonia	3	1	2	—	—	1	13	5	25
Pleuro-Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Broncho-Pneumonia	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	6
Bronchitis	2	1	—	—	—	—	4	11	18
Empyema	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Asthma	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

*Infective.*

Phthisis	—	—	—	—	3	8	21	2	34
Tubercular Kidney	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
„ Meningitis	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	3
„ Peritonitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Tabes Mesenterica	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
General Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	5
Tuberculosis of Joints	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

---

Carried forward ..... 80 ... 10 ... 6 ... 8 ... 19 ... 110 ... 113 ... 346

CAUSE OF DEATH.	WHOLE ISLAND.											Total.			
	Under 1.	1-2.	2-5.	5-15.	15-25.	25-65.	Over 65.								
Brought forward.....	80	...	10	...	6	...	8	...	19	...	110	...	113	...	346
<i>Intemperance.</i>															
Alcoholism .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	6	...	—	...	6
<i>Parturition.</i>															
Heart Failure .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	1
Septicæmia .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	1
Hæmorrhage .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	1
<i>Tumour.</i>															
Malignant .....	—	..	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	22	...	24	...	46
<i>Septic.</i>															
Septicæmia .....	1	...	—	...	—	..	1	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	3
<i>Violence.</i>															
Fall .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	5	...	1	...	6
Drowning .....	—	...	1	...	—	...	2	...	2	...	—	...	—	...	5
Poisoning.....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	2	...	—	...	2
Suicide.....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	1
Burns .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	..	1	..	1
Run over.....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	1
<i>Nervous.</i>															
Dementia.....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	2	...	2	...	4
General Paralysis of the															
Insane .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	2	...	1	..	3
Epilepsy .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	1	...	1	...	3
Mania .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	2	...	—	...	2
Meningitis .....	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	1	..	3
Paralysis .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	1
Progressive Atrophy .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	1
Myelitis .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	1	...	—	...	1
<i>Old Age.</i>															
Senile Decay .....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	60	...	60
Totals .....	81	...	11	...	7	...	12	...	23	...	159	...	205	...	498

## KING EDWARD SANATORIUM.

Of the 141 cases notified during the year, 123 were isolated at the King Edward Sanatorium, and 18 at home.

The daily average of Patients was 12·5, and Staff 13·4

During the year 238 cultures were examined and reported upon in the States Laboratory.

There were 230 examinations for the Klebs Loëffler Bacillus, 8 for the Tubercle Bacillus, one for Anthrax, and 3 Widal's reactions.

Table V.

CASES TREATED AT THE SANATORIUM AND AT HOME, 1914.

	St. Peter-Port.	St. Sampson's.	Vale.	Castel.	St. Saviour's.	St. Peter-in-the-Wood.	Torteval.	Forest.	St. Martin's.	St. Andrew's.	Total.
DIPHTHERIA.											
At the Sanatorium ...	22	1	2	4	1	1	0	0	7	2	40
At Home .....	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Total .....	22	4	2	6	1	1	0	0	7	2	45
SCARLET FEVER.											
At the Sanatorium ...	31	5	15	1	0	1	0	2	7	7	69
At Home .....	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	13
Total .....	34	9	16	1	0	1	0	5	7	9	82
ENTERIC FEVER.											
Doubtful .....	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
At the Sanatorium ...	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
At Home .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total .....	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
DIPHTHERIA & SCARLET FEVER .....	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total .....											141

Table VI.

CASES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGES FOR 1914.

	Under 1 year.	2-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26 and over.	Tl.
DIPHTHERIA .....	1 ...	5 ...	16 ...	11 ...	3 ...	4 ...	5 ...	45
SCARLET FEVER .....	- ...	27 ...	31 ...	19 ...	4 ...	- ...	1 ...	82
SCARLET FEVER WITH DIPHTHERIA } ..	0 ...	3 ...	2 ...	- ...	- ...	- ...	- ...	5
ENTERIC FEVER .....	- ...	- ...	1 ...	1 ...	1 ..	- ...	3 ...	6
REMOVED FOR ENTERIC FEVER	- ...	- ...	- ...	- ...	1 ...	- ...	1 ..	2
REMOVED FOR DIPHTHERIA...	- ...	- ...	- ..	- ...	- ...	1 ...	- ...	1
Total.....	1 ...	35 ...	50 ...	31 ...	9 ...	5 ...	10 ...	141

## DIPHTHERIA.

There were 45 notifications during the year, also one a doubtful case, a Militiaman from Castle Cornet, who was found to be suffering from Tonsillitis.

Twenty-two of these cases came from the Town Parish; there were no cases from Torteval and the Forest Parishes.

Forty cases were treated at the Sanatorium with one death, and five at home with two deaths. The case of the boy who died at the Sanatorium, a strong healthy lad, was a particularly sad one, as the parents some years before had lost another child under very similar circumstances. In each instance no doctor was called in until the child had been ill several days and was sick unto death; on both occasions the parents knew better than the doctors and were sure that these children, first had nothing the matter with them, and secondly died from Asthma.

At present it is not possible to deal with such cases of ignorant prejudice and neglect, but it will be so before long, I sincerely hope.

The two children who died at home were in each case seen by a doctor just before death.

The death rates for the year were therefore: At the Sanatorium, 2·5 per cent. At home, 40 per cent.

It was not necessary to close any school on account of the incidence of Diphtheria during the year, but had not the Christmas holidays intervened it would have been necessary to close the Military School at the Fort, as three cases occurred there in December amongst the children attending there.

**Table VII.**  
**DIPHTHERIA FOR 1914.**

Parishes.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Tl.
St. Peter-Port.....	2	1	2	4	3	5	—	—	—	—	3	2	22
St. Sampson's.....	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Vale.....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Castel .....	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
St. Saviour's .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
St. Peter-in-the-Wood .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Torteval .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Forest .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
St. Martin's.....	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	2	—	7
St. Andrew's .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Total .....	5	6	4	4	3	10	5	1	—	—	5	2	45
Died at Sanatorium ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
„ Home.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
Total.....													3

### SCARLET FEVER.

Of the 82 cases reported during the year, 69 were isolated at the Sanatorium, and 13 at home. No deaths occurred, and as far as I am aware no patient suffered from any of the after effects of the disease.

This is as satisfactory as it is unusual, as even mild cases of the disease are apt to suffer severely from its complications which may seriously affect the sufferer and even shorten his life.

As far as my experience goes, the best, if not the only way to avoid these sequelæ, which are of a septic nature, is to treat the patient as much as possible in the open air.

This means that with the help of our climate we should be more successful than in less favoured places, and I believe this is the case.

St. Saviour's and Torteval had no cases in the year.

Eight of the cases were found "peeling" and had passed the acute stage.

It was necessary to close a private school and St. Andrew's Infant School for a period of ten days. No further cases followed when the schools were re-opened.

Table VIII.

## SCARLET FEVER FOR 1914.

Parishes.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Tl.
St. Peter-Port .....	6	...	4	...	3	...	3	...	1	...	2	...	34
St. Sampson's.....	1	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	9
Vale.....	1	...	-	...	-	...	3	...	2	...	1	...	16
Castel ..	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
St. Saviour's .....	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	0
St. Peter-in-the-Wood .	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Torteval .....	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	0
Forest .....	-	...	1	...	3	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	5
St. Martin's.....	-	...	-	...	-	...	4	...	2	...	-	...	7
St. Andrew's .....	1	...	-	...	1	...	2	...	-	...	3	...	9
Total .....	9	...	5	...	9	...	5	...	7	...	7	...	82

## ENTERIC FEVER.

Six cases of this disease were notified, and two doubtful ones. All were treated at the Sanatorium.

The two doubtful ones both died, one of Tubercular Meningitis and one of Uræmia.

Two of the Enteric cases died, but both of intercurrent diseases, one of Tubercular Meningitis, the other of Pulmonary Phthisis.

Four cases occurred in the Town parish and one each in St. Andrew's and the Vale. The St. Andrew's case was an imported one.

Two cases lived at the bottom of Vauvert on opposite sides of the road; in both houses there were serious drainage defects which were remedied.

A third case occurring at the same time lived near, and as it appeared possible that the milk supply was concerned in these cases, the sale of it was stopped until the farms concerned had been inspected the next day.

As the milk round concerned was a large one, this caused some temporary inconvenience, but the vendor, who was compensated for his loss, acted in a public spirited manner on this occasion.

At the end of 1913 I was able, through the kindness of Professor Besredka, of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, to obtain a supply of Dr. Vincent's Vaccine for the treatment of Enteric Fever, when it could not be obtained through ordinary channels.

Although the number of cases treated was very small, it appeared to me to have saved one life, which without its use would have been lost.

The outbreak of the war served to remind us that Enteric Fever had in the past proved itself a veritable scourge amongst armies in the field.

The existence of "carrier" cases amongst the troops and the great difficulties in carrying out ordinary measures of sanitation during active operations were the causes.

Statistics could be quoted *ad nauseam*, but it is sufficient to say that during two and a half years of the South African War, 6,965 non-commissioned officers and men died of wounds and 13,500 from disease; in addition 72,551 were invalided back to England. Enteric Fever played a large part in this enormous incidence of sickness.

We owe to Sir Almroth Wright the system of preventive inoculation against Enteric Fever.

Every effort was made to make use of this powerful immunizing inoculation amongst the troops, but as immunization was not compulsory, it was found that soldiers did not readily consent to it at first. Fortunately in the ensuing year this prejudice disappeared, and very satisfactory returns can be given in the next report.

The Board of Health have made arrangements to deal with any incidence of the disease that may occur in the near future.

Table IX.

## ENTERIC FEVER FOR 1914.

Parishes.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Tl.
St. Peter-Port .....	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	3	...	-	...	4
St. Sampson's .....	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	0
Vale .....	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	1
Castel .....	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	0
St. Saviour's .....	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	0
St. Peter-in-the-Wood .	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	0
Torteval .....	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	0
Forest .....	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	0
St. Martin's.....	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	0
St. Andrew's .....	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Total .....	0	...	0	...	1	...	1	...	0	...	3	...	6

"Doubtful," Died at

K.E.S. ....	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	2
Died at K.E.S., Enteric.	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	2

XIII.—1915.

No cases of Small Pox or Cerebro Spinal Meningitis occurred during the year.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis was 48, of which 34 were due to Pulmonary Phthisis. In 1904 there were 78 and 56.

The rates for 1914 are respectively 1·14 and ·8 per 1,000, much the same as last year.

In Jersey the Phthisis rate for 1914 was 1·3.

In England and Wales the rates for 1913 were 1·3 and 1·0.

There were 18 female and 16 male deaths, the average age at death being respectively 30·8 and 35.

The number of notifications received was 29.

The Board of Health has decided to recommend the extension of notification to cover all cases of Tuberculosis, and that the Ordinance be altered to give effect to this decision.

The States adopted the recommendation of the Board of Health, that when there was accommodation at the Sanatorium early and curable cases of Phthisis might be admitted there. This is a suggestion I first advocated in 1904, and in the summer months I hope it will be possible to admit a few every year with great benefit to themselves and the community.

#### DISINFECTING FOR 1914.

Adults and Children's Clothing .....	3,505
Blankets, Counterpanes and Sheets .....	1,877
Bolsters and Pillows .....	777
Feather Beds .....	163
Floor Coverings .....	300
Mattresses.....	794
Sundry Articles .....	1,251
Rooms for Notifiable Diseases .....	158
Rooms for Phthisis .....	49
Rooms for Non-notifiable Diseases .....	15
Houses visited and re-visited.....	369
Rooms and Wards at the Sanatorium .....	24
Fish Market .....	1

No compensation for any articles alleged to have been damaged was claimed during the year. A large number of uniforms and blankets were disinfected at the request of the military authorities.

## SCHOOL INSPECTION.

One hundred and forty-three visits were paid to Schools during 1914.

On account of "missed" cases of infectious diseases many examinations of children for this cause were made, and the same zeal and watchfulness was evident amongst the teachers as was experienced in former years.

I must again express my obligations to them as a body for their watchful care, which goes far to successfully balance the apathy of many of the parents of the school children in this respect.

In the Town parish especially, many children are sent to the Laboratory for purposes of diagnosis.

Cases of Ringworm have not been prevalent during 1914.

One hundred and two cases have been treated for defective vision, and ninety-one children recommended for operation on account of enlarged tonsils and adenoids.

Although in needy cases the Bailiff and Jurats were good enough to provide the necessary funds for this treatment, unfortunately many parents would not allow their children to be benefited by this kindly offer.

## REFUSE COLLECTION.

The whole system of collection in the Town Parish has been improved during the year. More frequent collections are made, and the unsatisfactory carts used by the late contractor have been replaced by new ones provided by the Parish.

The difficulties caused at first by the change of contractors have now disappeared.

The carts, which were built locally, are of excellent design and a credit to the builder. It now remains to enforce the provision of covered metal ash-bins upon all householders, and to do away with the present extraordinary collection of insanitary receptacles for refuse which are seen in the streets.

I can only repeat what I have previously stated, that the crowded portions of St. Martin's and the Vale parishes should, in the interests of the inhabitants, institute a system of refuse collection and destruction, similar to that of St. Peter-Port and St. Sampson's parishes.

The destruction of household refuse is most efficiently carried out by the Guernsey Railway Co. as it has always been in the past.

As it is now so important to ensure that no waste of food occurs, I reproduce a paragraph from my report of 1910 dealing with the damage caused by rats.

“The deaths that occurred in England from Plague served to focus attention upon the dangers due to rats, as infected animals, and the vermin infecting them are instrumental in spreading this disease. It is not only on these grounds that rats should be systematically destroyed. They increase very rapidly, consume an enormous amount of food for their bulk, as well as pollute and destroy food supplies; indeed the damage done by them has been calculated to amount to millions of pounds annually in Great Britain.”

In Guernsey damage caused to growers' crops, seeds and bulbs, must also be reckoned in the bill of costs.

Where brick drains still exist rats often force their way from them into houses. Not only can sewer gas thus enter the house, but rats carry upon their feet the contents of the sewer and cause the most filthy contamination of food.

The Board of Agriculture recommend Barium Carbonate as one of the cheapest and most effective poisons for rats and mice. It is used in the proportion of one part to four parts of meal, mixed with water and made into a stiff paste; as it induces thirst the animals seek water in the open where they die. Fires have been caused by strong Phosphorus paste, which is very inflammable and should only be used with caution. So many parts, especially of the Town, must be infested with these vermin, that a sustained and systematic attempt to reduce their number should be made.

---

In my 1911 report I commented upon the connection between Picture Palaces and infectious diseases as follows:—

“I cannot help thinking that the Cinematograph Shows played some, indeed a new part, in spreading these diseases, as they attract naturally large numbers of children who crowd together in badly ventilated halls. I believe that, in the intervals of the performances, efforts are made to ventilate the halls, but the necessary darkness does not favour cleanliness, and encourages the growth of the organisms of disease.”

The local halls appear to be kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

XIII.—1915.

A States Committee has been busy during the year inspecting Churches and Public Halls to ascertain if the exits were satisfactory in case of fire and panic. They have caused a large number of alterations to be made and have done most useful work.

I took the liberty of calling their attention to the very unsatisfactory means of ventilating some of these buildings, indeed in some there are practically no means of ventilation. Churches and Chapels are amongst the worst of these buildings: surely in them we might expect to have wholesome air to breathe!

\* \* \* \* \*

At the commencement of the war it was evident that there would be a shortage of disinfectants usually in use, and official notice of the fact was sent us from the Home Office.

For some years past I had been interested in following experiments in the manufacture of a disinfectant from sea-water, under the "Hermite" process, and known as "Thalassol."

It had been used at Netley and Osborne with great success, and a plant that had been installed at Poplar, where an artificially prepared sea-water was used, gave equally good results. I think that the credit of proving its remarkable powers and the many uses to which it has been applied by the municipality of Poplar, is due to Dr. Alexander, the M.O.H. of Poplar.

The process is a cheap and simple one, consisting of the electrolysis of sea-water in special electrolyzers, and the addition of a fixing solution to render the disinfectant a permanently powerful one.

The chemistry of "Thalassol" is complex, but its active principle is Hypochlorite of Magnesium, which gives off Chlorine and Oxygen when it comes in contact with organic matter.

It contains from 4 to 5 grainines of available Chlorine per litre.

The Board of Health in August recommended the erection of a plant for its manufacture, and the States decided to adopt their recommendation. The plant was erected in the building supporting the sea-water tank at the Careening Hard and was ready for use at the end of October.

At the end of the year the working of it was transferred from the Board of Health to the Supervisor.

"Thalassol" is not only a cheap and efficient disinfectant, but has powerful deoderant properties, and during the coming summer should be largely used for the disinfection of drains, gully-traps, the floors of public buildings, &c.

XIII.—1915.

It is non-poisonous, and has a slight but not unpleasant odour resembling that of Chloride of Lime.

In subsequent reports I hope to mention fully the various purposes for which it has been used.

---

The Ordinance relating to Secret Diseases was opposed when it came before the Court of Chief Pleas for renewal.

The Court renewed it for the usual period, but appointed a Committee of its members to study the question and issue a report.

The question is now being studied by a Royal Commission in England, but its report has not yet been published.

As explained in last year's report, the Board of Health were anxious to obtain increased powers for the M.O.H. and Sanitary Inspector similar to those obtaining in England, particularly that of the right of entry upon premises.

An "Ordonnance" was submitted to the Royal Court by the Crown Officers at the request of the Board of Health to this effect, but was withdrawn for the reason that it should be presented in the form of a "Projet," and has not since been brought forward.

The report of the States Enquiry Committee upon Public Health appeared in the Billet d'État of April 29th.

The result of their investigations was briefly as follows:—

That the powers given to the States Sanitary Committee were amply sufficient to safeguard the health of the Island if a fuller use were made of its powers.

That there has not been a sufficient inspection of school children to prevent epidemics developing.

That an Ordinance should be passed prohibiting the storage of manure for more than four days within the "barrières" of St. Peter-Port, or within thirty yards of any dwelling-house in the urban districts of St. Peter-Port, St. Sampson, and the Vale, or in any such areas as may hereafter be fixed by the Royal Court.

That an efficient system for the collection and destruction of refuse be enforced in the same areas and under similar conditions.

That the States Sanitary Committee has failed to realise the appalling death rate amongst infants in certain of the Guernsey parishes.

Finally, there was a recommendation that the administration of the Sanatorium should be undertaken by a Sub-Committee of the States Sanitary Committee, and that the medical care of the patients should be entrusted to one or more doctors, in order that the M.O.H. should have more time to devote to the more important duties of discovering and stopping disease at its source.

It is worthy of notice that the report did not advocate the granting of executive powers to the Board of Health.

The powers of the Parochial Sanitary Committee enable them to deal with the existing nuisances mentioned, but the grave disadvantages attaching to the existence of ten separate and one advisory Committee in such a small area as Guernsey were not therefore apparent to the Enquiry Committee.

The States rejected the report and no action was taken in the matter.

The status and powers of the States Sanitary Committee therefore unfortunately remain unchanged.

Towards the end of the year the Specialist Sanitary Officer of the R.A.M.C., Captain Leslie, who had done invaluable work in connection with the mobilization of the troops, left the Island.

I was appointed to fill his place as far as my abilities would allow me to do so, and although these duties added greatly to my responsibilities and work, I believe the Board of Health were gratified at this appointment, which was also a source of great satisfaction to me, particularly as my application for a still more honourable service, that at the Front, was not granted. To the community it is a matter for thankfulness that the health of Guernsey should have been so exceptionally good in the days of war and trouble.

We can only hope that the same verdict may be recorded when the local health record for 1915 has to be written.

HY. DRAPER BISHOP, M.D., M.O.H.











